

**To:** Rauscher, Jon[Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov]; Wall, Dan[wall.dan@epa.gov]; Ruhl, Christopher[Ruhl.Christopher@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Press[Press@epa.gov]; MacIntyre, Mark[Macintyre.Mark@epa.gov]  
**From:** StClair, Christie  
**Sent:** Sun 8/16/2015 7:40:05 PM  
**Subject:** RE: EPA Statement on San Juan River Data from Gold King Mine Release

Looping in Mark MacIntyre, who is replacing me as deputy PIO for media. Mark, we have a draft response that is fairly broad, and Jon and Dan have both offered to help develop a more specific response.

Mark, can you take this from here?

**Christie St. Clair**

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

o: 202-564-2880

m: 202-768-5780

**From:** StClair, Christie  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2015 6:43 PM  
**To:** Rauscher, Jon; Wall, Dan; Ruhl, Christopher  
**Subject:** RE: EPA Statement on San Juan River Data from Gold King Mine Release

Let's circle back to this tomorrow.

**Christie St. Clair**

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

o: 202-564-2880

m: 202-768-5780

**From:** Rauscher, Jon

**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2015 8:32 PM

**To:** Wall, Dan; StClair, Christie; Ruhl, Christopher

**Subject:** RE: EPA Statement on San Juan River Data from Gold King Mine Release

Farmington, NM to Shiprock, NM along the San Juan River is on Navajo Nation.

The Navajo Nation is within the jurisdiction of EPA Region 9 whether the land is in New Mexico or Arizona.

**From:** Wall, Dan

**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2015 7:17 PM

**To:** StClair, Christie; Ruhl, Christopher

**Cc:** Rauscher, Jon

**Subject:** RE: EPA Statement on San Juan River Data from Gold King Mine Release

I'm not familiar with San Juan area data. Is this specific for San Juan or generally? If San Juan area, maybe Jon knows.

**From:** StClair, Christie

**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2015 5:37 PM  
**To:** Ruhl, Christopher; Wall, Dan  
**Subject:** Fwd: EPA Statement on San Juan River Data from Gold King Mine Release

Can you draft answers for this?

**Christie St. Clair**

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

o: 202-564-2880

m: 202-768-5780

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Dean Higuchi <[Higuchi.Dean@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Higuchi.Dean@epamail.epa.gov)>  
**Date:** August 15, 2015 at 5:16:02 PM MDT  
**To:** <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>, "cmacpherson@sjbhd.org" <[cmacpherson@sjbhd.org](mailto:cmacpherson@sjbhd.org)>, "cninde@sjbhd.org" <[cninde@sjbhd.org](mailto:cninde@sjbhd.org)>  
**Subject:** Fw: EPA Statement on San Juan River Data from Gold King Mine Release

Forwarding questions from reporter

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From: Woodfill, David <[dwoodfill@12NEWS.COM](mailto:dwoodfill@12NEWS.COM)>  
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2015 1:12 PM  
To: Higuchi, Dean  
Subject: RE: EPA Statement on San Juan River Data from Gold King Mine Release

Mr. Higuchi;

Here are my questions:

1. Did the EPA determine that there were any measurable increases in the concentrations of the 24 metals tested for, including arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury.
2. If so, how much did each increase since before the contamination?
3. Did EPA officials find that any of the 24 metals tested exceeded concentration limitations set by the federal government?

4. If so, do the concentrations pose any health risk to people, animals or livestock that come into contact with the water?

5. In layman's terms, should the public be concerned about the metal concentrations detected in these tests?

Thank you for your time.

David Woodfill  
KPNX  
602-444-1212

-----Original Message-----

From: Higuchi, Dean [<mailto:Higuchi.Dean@epa.gov>]  
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2015 3:16 PM  
To: Woodfill, David <[dwoodfill@12NEWS.COM](mailto:dwoodfill@12NEWS.COM)>  
Subject: Re: EPA Statement on San Juan River Data from Gold King Mine Release

Will forward your question up to our folks.

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From: Woodfill, David <[dwoodfill@12NEWS.COM](mailto:dwoodfill@12NEWS.COM)>  
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2015 12:10 PM  
To: Higuchi, Dean  
Subject: RE: EPA Statement on San Juan River Data from Gold King Mine Release

Good afternoon;  
Is there anyone who can interpret this data for KPNX?

Thank you for your time.

David Woodfill  
Assignment Editor  
KPNX  
602-444-1212

-----Original Message-----

From: Dean Higuchi [<mailto:higuchi.dean@epa.gov>]  
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2015 2:45 PM  
To: KPNX-Connect <[KPNX-Connect@12NEWS.COM](mailto:KPNX-Connect@12NEWS.COM)>  
Subject: EPA Statement on San Juan River Data from Gold King Mine Release

CONTACT:  
[press@epa.gov](mailto:press@epa.gov)  
(970) 812-3351

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 15, 2015

#### EPA Statement on San Juan River Data from Gold King Mine Release

SHIPROCK, NEW MEXICO - Today, EPA has released additional water quality data from Aug. 7 to Aug. 9, 2015, on the San Juan River between Farmington and Shiprock, New Mexico. The August 7 data was collected for baseline purposes to understand river conditions at the Hogback monitoring location, prior to the impact of the upstream contaminants from the Gold King Mine release.

To assess the impacts of the release at the Gold King Mine, water quality samples were collected at four locations for 24 metals. Each surface water sample was analyzed for metals including arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury.

Due to the highly variable conditions typical of this segment of the river, additional testing will be conducted, and we continue to work closely with the Navajo Nation EPA on assessing drinking water, agriculture, livestock, and other critical water needs.

Water quality data from Aug. 7 to Aug. 9, 2015, on the San Juan River between Farmington and Shiprock, New Mexico: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/epa-statement-water-quality-data-collected-san-juan-river-between-farmington-and-shiprock-new-mexico>

For more information: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>

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